BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 93-121-C - ORDER NO. 93-657 ✓

JULY 22, 1993

IN RE: Generic Proceeding to Consider the   ) ORDER
        Implementation of Directory Assistance   ) GRANTING
        Charges for Calls Originated from   ) STAFF
        Telephone Company Provided Pay Telephones.   ) MOTION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of

South Carolina (the Commission) on the Staff Motion that the

provisions of Order No. 93-150 in Docket No. 92-556-C (Proceeding

to Consider the Application of Directory Assistance Charges to

Customer-Owned Pay Telephones) be adopted in this Docket, without

a hearing (with one modification). The grounds for the Staff

Motion are that first, the issues in the present Docket related to

Directory Assistance charges for calls originated from telephone

company provided pay telephones are essentially the same as those

litigated in Docket No. 92-556-C, which related to Directory

Assistance charges to Customer Owned Coin Operated Telephones

(COCOTs). Further, among other grounds, the Staff alleges that

both Dockets concerned Directory Assistance charges for customers

using coin-operated telephones, and that rules applicable to

Directory Assistance charges for coin-operated telephones owned by

private owners should be applicable to coin-operated telephones

owned by Local Exchange Carriers (LECs). Staff also states that

the requirements of Order No. 93-150 in Docket No. 92-556 for

COCOT providers to inspect their pay telephones every thirty (30)

days to ensure telephone directories are available for their use

be modified to reflect an inspection requirement of every sixty

(60) days. Modification is requested due to Staff's belief that

specific LECs do not have the ability to inspect their pay

telephones every thirty (30) days to ensure that directories are

available. Further, Staff alleges that the adoption of the same

provisions with the modifications stated above would make for a

level playing field between the LECs and the COCOTs with regards

to Directory Assistance charges. It should be noted that the

Staff Motion was served on all parties in Docket No. 92-556-C, and

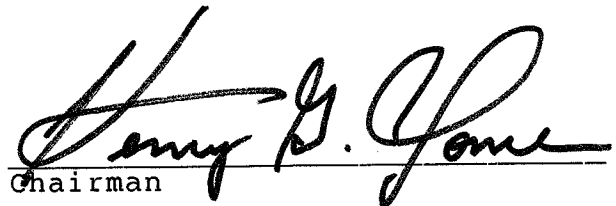only one comment was received, which was positive.

The Commission has considered this matter and believes that

the rules for Directory Assistance charges should be the same

whether the coin-operated telephone is owned by a LEC or by a

private owner. The Commission also believes that much of the

testimony regarding Directory Assistance issues for coin-operated

telephones presented in Docket No. 92-556-C is also applicable to

the present Docket. Because of these reasons, the Commission

believes that the Staff Motion should be granted. Therefore, the

Commission believes that the LECs should have an option to charge

their end-users either 25¢ or 10¢ per Directory Assistance call

(411 and 1-555-1212). The exception to this procedure is that the

LECs should charge 10¢ only for pay telephones located in

low-income housing areas, mobile home parks within one block of

low-income housing, non-profit hospitals, nursing homes,

elementary or secondary schools, city sidewalks, and correctional

institutions.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1.   The Staff Motion is hereby granted.

2.   The LECs will have the option to charge end-users of LEC

pay telephones either 25¢ or 10¢ per Directory Assistance call

(411 and 1-555-1212) with the exceptions noted above, wherein the

LECs shall charge 10¢ only.

3.   The charge for Directory Assistance shall become

effective on or before August 1, 1993.

4.   That all LECs shall file tariffs reflecting its charges

for Directory Assistance consistent with the findings herein.

5.   That LEC and COCOT providers shall inspect their pay

telephones as a minimum requirement every sixty (60) days to

ensure that telephone directories are available for their users.

6.   That this Order shall remain in full force and effect

until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)